

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

21 December 1965

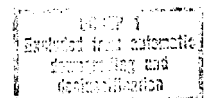
MEMORANDUM FOR: State Department Member, Scientific
Intelligence Committee

SUBJECT: Scientific Attache in Eastern Europe

1. In response to your request, the Scientific Intelligence Committee discussed the State Department proposal to assign a scientific attache in Poland or elsewhere in Eastern Europe. The Committee previously expressed the view that such an assignment would be of considerable benefit to the scientific intelligence community and is encouraged by the Department's judgment that developments in the Eastern Europe since 1963 make it appropriate to reconsider having a scientific attache in that area. It therefore endorses the present proposal and hopes that it can be implemented promptly.

2. The SIC appreciates that reporting on various aspects of science and technology is not the only function of a scientific attache, but from an intelligence point of view this function is of primary importance and should be emphasized. Greater contact between US and Eastern European scientists facilitates acquiring useful information through regular intelligence channels, but is generally not as valuable as direct reporting by the scientific attache. The possibility of developing, through the scientific community in Eastern Europe, avenues of information on science and technology in Communist China is particularly worthwhile. If avenues of information on science and technology in Communist China could be developed through the scientific community in Eastern Europe, some of the most urgent needs of the scientific intelligence community may be better served.

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3. Past intelligence collection efforts in Eastern Europe have been undertaken primarily for the purpose of getting information on the USSR. While this has resulted in building up a useful information base concerning science and technology in Eastern Europe, it has not kept pace with the growing scientific importance of this area. Regular on-the-spot reporting on scientific and technical developments in Eastern Europe would not only help to keep our information base current but also shed light on the relationship of these developments to local political, economic, and military factors.

4. In general, the intelligence community has a continuing need for current reporting on scientific activities and programs in Eastern Europe. We especially seek information on research underway or planned which is applicable to military hardware, but this requirement should be construed broadly to encompass basic research and not confined to R&D directly related to weapons systems. Thus, reporting on research in physics, metallurgy, and the medical and other sciences would contribute to our military assessments. At the present time, the intelligence community is particularly interested, for example, in Eastern European progress in computers, lasers, and infra-red equipment; it is also concerned with scientific and technical aid to Communist China, with Eastern European activities in international scientific programs (i.e. IQSY), and basic information on scientific and technical education both in these countries and under cooperative arrangements with the USSR.

5. The SIC is anxious to assist the proposed scientific attache in whatever way would help him carry out his reporting functions. We assume that he will be provided with an outline of intelligence requirements and suggest that he be encouraged to call upon the SIC for an intelligence briefing before his departure and periodically during his tenure.

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Chairman

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